

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, NG

SUBJ: US-NIGER BILATERALS

FOR AID/ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TO PEACE CORP FOR TORIAN

REF: A. NIAMEY 4857, B. BARON-SHEAR LETTER OF JANUARY 16, 1976

1. SINCE SUCCESSFUL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GON REPRESENTATIVES DURING YOUR VISIT HERE IN DECEMBER REGARDING US-NIGER COLLABORATION ON OUR DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PROGRAMS (REF A), QUESTION OF SCHEDULING BILATERALS HAS COME UP FREQUENTLY IN OUR VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS, MOST RECENTLY DURING MEETING RDO BARON AND I HAD WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT ANNOU. HE REMINED US THAT BALL WAS IN OUR COURT REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. HE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE GON ATTACHES TO THESE DISCUSSIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE COULD COME TO AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON NEXT ROUND.

2. RDO BARON HAD EARLIER INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A TWO DAY SESSION IN WASHINGTON IN FREBRUARY, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO CONSULTATION
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ON BOTH SIDES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR COOPERATION MOUNKEILA. THIS TIME FRAME WAS SUGGESTED KNOWING THAT JANUARY WAS OUT, THAT WE PROBABLY WOULD WANT TO HAVE TALKS BEFORE FIRST MEETING OF CLUB DES AMIS IN MARCH, AND A FEW MONTHS BEFORE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR FY 78 PROGRAMMING ARE SCHEDULED.

3. WHILE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WILL BE BUSY MONTHS FOR GON DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS, WITH ANNUAL MEETINGS PLANNED IN JANUARY WITH FRENCH AND IN EARLY FEBRUARY WITH FED, ANNOU MENTIONED THAT MID-FEBRUARY WOULD BE EXCELLENT TIME FOR HIM AS THIS WOULD PERMIT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AFTER WHICH HE COULD VISIT OTTAWA TO PREPARE FOR TALKS WITH CANADIANS WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN NIAMEY AT END OF FEBRUARY. DURING JANUARY 15 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE HE RE-CONFIRMED THAT MID-FEBRUARY PERIOD ACCEPTABLE TO GON.

4. KEEPING IN MIND STAFF WORK REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR SUCH MEETINGS (STATE 269209) AND OUR DISCUSSIONS IN NIAMEY DURING CWR WORKSHOP AIMING AT JANUARY OR FEBRUARY DATE FOR TALKS, WE HOPE EARLY DECISION CAN BE REACHED ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE NEED FOR DECISION ON SCOPE OF TALKS. GON VISUALIZES THESE DISCUSSION AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO BE OUR VIEW ALSO. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE A REVIEW OF NIGER'S NEEDS, AND OUR PLANS, FOR PC PROGRAM. AID OF COURSE HAS MAJOR SHARE OF DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT IN NIGER, BUT PC PROGRAM IS ALSO SUBSTANTIAL; SIGNIFICANT PC RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED TO THIS COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY RESERVING SOME TIME DURING BILATERALS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PC PRESUMABLY AFTER AID AGENDA IS COMPLETED. IN ADDITION TO FACILITATING PC PLANNING AND CLARIFYING GON NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS, SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE USEFUL PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING GON'S LONG-RANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENTIONS TOWARDS ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF PC IN NIGER.

6. RDO BARON HAS EXCHANGED THOUGHTS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOU ON A.I.D. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, SEE REF B). ANNOU AND HE FEEL THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE.

- (A) NIGERIEN, DEVELOPPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES (3 YEAR PLAN)
- (B) AID PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMING SYSTEMS
- (C) SECTORS FOR MEDIUM TERM AID AND COOPERATION.
- (1) ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY INCLUDING
REGIONAL PROGRAMS
- (2) FY 77 PROJECT PLANNING
- (3) FY 78 PROGRAMMING
- (D) NIGER'S LONG TERM NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

7. ITEM B IS DESIGNED TO BRIEF GON DELEGATION
HOW A.I.D. WORKS, OUR PROGRAM CYCLE, OUR PRIORITIES
AND OBJECTIVES, ETC. ITEM C-1 WILL PERMIT US TO
REVIEW AID ACTIVITIES BOTH BILATERAL AND REGIONAL
THAT ARE UNDERWAY AND ADDRESS ANY PROBLEMS OR
QUESTIONS - VIZ SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCING FOR THE
NIGER CEREALS PROGRAM, GON POSITION ON NIGER RIVER
COMMISSION AND INDICATIVE PLAN; ETC. ITEM C-2
WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIRM UNDER-
STANDING ON PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR FY 77.
ITEM C-3 WILL PROVIDE A MEANS TO IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES
FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATION IN FY 78 (AND AFTER).

8. ITEM D, CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
REQUIREMENTS FOR A LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT IN THE
SAHEL AS SEEN BY NIGER (CLARK AMENDMENT; CLUB DES
AMIS). IT WILL ALSO BE SEEN BY GON ON OCCASION
TO REQUEST US ASSISTANCE IN LONG TERM PLANNING.

9. ADO IS PREPARED TO DRAFT POSITION PAPERS ON
VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS AS NECESSARY.

10. RECOMMEND THAT (A) AID CONSIDER AS POSSIBLE
DATES TWO DAY PERIOD IN WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16TH,
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OR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23RD, (B) WE BE AUTHORIZED
TO INFORM GON THAT WE WELCOME GON DELEGATION
TO WASHINGTON ON DATE IN FEBRUARY THAT HAS
BEEN SELECTED AND (C) TIME BE PROGRAMMED TO
PERMIT SOME DISCUSSION OF PEACE CORP PROGRAM.HECK

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